[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that while the Cochin Government levy a low tree-tax it is made up by a large rental?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This is clause (*b*) of question 125 to which the answer is there: "Government are not aware."

*Special Consideration for War-service Men.*

104. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government aware that persons who have put in service during the late war are given special consideration in British India? If so, will the Government be pleased to allow the same concessions to those who are similarly situated in Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. Similar concessions have been allowed in Travancore to persons who have put in service during the war.

*Counting of Overseas Service for Pension.*

105. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it a fact that the period of pensionable service overseas does not count towards pension in Travancore and, if so, will the Government be pleased to say whether they have any objection to revise the order so as to make it conformable to the rules obtaining in similar cases in British India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No. The period of service overseas counts for pension in Travancore.

*Work of the Soldiers' Committee.*

106. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How far, and in what way, has the Soldiers' Committee been instrumental in securing service for men who have returned from overseas service? How many of the recommendations of that committee in respect of overseas men have so far been accepted by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Soldiers' Committee has recommended 1,410 demobilised men of good character for employment. Of these 454 have been actually employed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are going to extend the same privilege to the remaining 956 hands that are left unemployed?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not in a position to know what sort of men the remaining 956 are.

PRESIDENT: You will please note the question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I know the question. I want to know whether the remaining 956 will also be employed in service.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Four hundred and fifty-four have actually been employed. The remaining 956 have been recommended by the Soldiers' Committee.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many hands have been employed during the last 6 months?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 1 claim notice.

*Statistics re. Encroachments on Poramboke Lands in certain Taluks in the Kottayam Division.*

107. MR. C. J. CURIEN (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the basis on which a fine of Rs. 200 is proposed to be inflicted in encroachment cases under the Land Conservancy Regulation—whether it is according to the difference in the area encroached upon or for each case, no regard being had to the extent encroached upon?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The fine of Rs. 200 provided under section 6 of the Land Conservancy Regulation is the maximum fine that can be inflicted in a single case of encroachment dealt with under the Regulation. The amount of fine to be imposed in each particular case is left to the discretion of the deciding officer in accordance with the merits of the case and is not necessarily dependent on the area encroached upon. Clause (ii) of rule 7 of the rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation (as amended by notification Dis. No 814 of 1922/Revenue, dated the 18th July, 1922), provides that 'no fine need be imposed in a case' of occupation 'which is considered to be unobjectionable by the Division Peishkar or other authorised officer', and that 'the fine to be imposed in an objectionable case should be really deterrent'. Clause (iii) of rule 9 also enjoins that, while dealing with objectionable occupations, the 'officers acting under the Regulation should exercise tact and discretion and should avoid unnecessary severity.'

*Premises for the Kottayam Vernacular Middle School for Girls.*

108. MR. C. J. CURIEN (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether the Government are aware that the vernacular middle school for girls at Kottayam has not an inch of ground for its premises; and

(ii) whether the headmaster has reported about the inconvenience experienced by the pupils and the staff for want of premises for the school, and, if so, the steps taken on his report?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(i) The answer is in the affirmative.

(ii) Yes. The matter is under correspondence.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly